

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A pressure-sensitive damper, comprising:
 - a first cylinder at least partially defining a first fluid chamber containing a damping fluid;
 - a damping piston supported for reciprocal motion within said first cylinder;
 - a piston rod having a first end connected to said damping piston, and a second end extending through a sealed opening in a seal head fixed to a first end of said first cylinder;
 - a second cylinder at least partially defining a second fluid chamber in selective fluid communication with said first cylinder and containing a damping fluid;
 - a compression damping plate fixed in said second cylinder;
 - at least one passage in said compression damping plate through which said damping fluid, displaced by the entrance into said first cylinder of successive portions of said piston rod during a compression stroke, flows in a first direction from said first fluid chamber to said second fluid chamber;
 - a first pressure source in communication with said second fluid chamber;
 - a valve which generates a resistance force to said fluid flow through said at least one passage in said first direction, wherein said resistance force varies according to an amount of force communicated to said valve by said first pressure source, said valve comprising:
 - a blow-off piston having a first position in engagement with said at least one passage and a second position removed from said at least one passage and,
 - an intensifier piston;
 - wherein said first pressure source acts on a first end of said intensifier piston, which generates an intensified pressure at the second end of said intensifier piston, and wherein said intensified pressure is communicated to said blow-off piston to create a force urging said blow-off piston toward said first position.

2. (Original) The damper of claim 1, further comprising a bypass circuit adapted to permit a flow of said damping fluid in said first direction through said compression damping plate without passing through said at least one passage.
3. (Original) The damper of claim 1, further comprising an externally-adjustable bypass circuit adapted to permit a flow of said damping fluid in said first direction through said compression damping plate without passing through said at least one passage.
4. (Original) The damper of claim 1, further comprising a second pressure source acting on said intensifier piston, said second pressure source adapted to generate a force tending to counteract said amount of force communicated to said valve by said first pressure source.
5. (Original) The damper of claim 4, wherein a pressure level of said second pressure source is adjustable.
6. (Original) The damper of claim 1, wherein a pressure level of said first pressure source is adjustable.
7. (Currently Amended) The damper of claim 1, wherein said first pressure source comprises a pressurized, compressible fluid chamber containing compressible fluid.
8. (Original) The damper of claim 7, wherein said first pressure source additionally comprises an annular chamber with externally-adjustable volume.

Please add the following new claims:

9. (New) The damper of claim 1, wherein the blow-off piston moves in an axial direction between the first position and the second position.
10. (New) The damper of claim 9, wherein the blow-off piston and the intensifier piston move in the same direction.
11. (New) The damper of claim 10, further comprising a third fluid chamber formed between the blow-off piston and the intensifier piston.
12. (New) The damper of claim 11, wherein a diameter of the second end of said intensifier piston is smaller than an outer diameter of the blow-off piston.
13. (New) The damper of claim 10, further comprising a shaft extending from the compression damping plate, wherein the intensifier piston is at least partially disposed in the shaft and moves relative to the shaft.
14. (New) The damper of claim 13, wherein the blow-off piston comprises an annular piston disposed around the shaft.
15. (New) The damper of claim 1, further comprising a second passage in the compression damping plate adapted to allow fluid flow from the second fluid chamber to the first fluid chamber.
16. (New) The damper of claim 15, further comprising a one-way valve that permits fluid flow in the second direction through the second passage, but not the first direction.

17. (New) A pressure-sensitive damper, comprising:
- a first cylinder at least partially defining a first fluid chamber containing a damping fluid;
 - a damping piston supported for reciprocal motion within the first cylinder;
 - a piston rod having a first end connected to the damping piston and a second end extending through a first end of the first cylinder;
 - a second fluid chamber in selective fluid communication with the first fluid chamber;
 - a compression damping plate;
 - at least one fluid passage in the compression damping plate through which the damping fluid, displaced by the piston rod during a compression stroke, flows in a first direction from the first fluid chamber to the second fluid chamber; and
 - a valve which generates a resistance force to the fluid flow through the at least one passage in the first direction, wherein the resistance force varies according a pressure force generated in the damping fluid and communicated to the valve during the compression stroke; and
 - a blow-off piston movable from a first position that substantially closes the at least one passage to a second position that opens the at least one passage.
18. (New) The damper of claim 17, wherein the blow-off piston comprises an annular piston disposed around a shaft extending from the compression damping plate.
19. (New) The damper of claim 18, further comprising an intensifier piston configured to generate an intensified pressure at a second end in response to the pressure force acting on a first end, wherein the intensified pressure urges the blow-off piston toward the first position.

20. (New) A method of controlling damping, comprising:
- displacing a damping fluid from the first chamber to a second chamber via a first passage during a compression stroke;
 - increasing a pressure in the second chamber;
 - applying a force to a first end of an intensifier piston located in the second chamber;
 - generating an intensified pressure at a second end of the intensifier piston in response to the force applied at the first end;
 - moving a blow-off piston to close fluid flow through the first passage in response to the intensified pressure; and
 - flowing the damping fluid from the second chamber to the first chamber via a second passage.